

REMARKS

Receipt of the office action mailed August 20, 2009 is acknowledged. Claims 1-3 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2004-278576A to Kano. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kano. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following argument, reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-3 based on the cited reference Kano reference (JP Patent Application No. 2004-278576A), Applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-356513, from which the present application claims priority. The Kano reference has an effective date of October 7, 2004. The Japanese priority document has a filing date of October 16, 2003.

The Japanese priority application fully supports each of claims 1-3 in the present application. Specifically, except for the amendment to claim 1 made in the Preliminary Amendment of April 13, 2006, claims 1-3 are identical to claims 1-3 of the verified translation of the priority document. Original claim 1 finds support at least in paragraphs [0022]-[0025] of the verified translation. Support for the limitation “and having a volume that is able to inhibit occurrence of a blistering in the main seal means” added to original claim 1 in the Preliminary Amendment of April 13, 2006 can be found at least in paragraphs [0036]-[0039] of the verified translation. Claim 2 finds support at least in paragraph [0025] of the translated application. Finally, claim 3 finds support at least in paragraph [0048] of the translated application.

Based on the foregoing, the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a) is perfected and the Kato reference is antedated. Accordingly, Kato is removed as a reference.

In view of the foregoing, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. In the event there is any remaining issues that the Examiner believes can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 474-6300.

Application No. 10/575,687
Amendment dated November 20, 2009
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2009

Docket No.: 19036/41822

November 20, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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